



~~PATENT~~

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit 3636

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November 12, 2002
(Date)

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Examiner : Barfield, A.

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In response to the Office Action mailed June 4, 2002 the following comments and arguments are presented.

Procedural History

Claims 25 and 26 are currently pending in the application.

Finality of Office Action Improper

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the finality of the office action mailed on June 4, 2002 and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the finality of the office action as premature. According to M.P.E.P. 706.07 (a), "Under present practice, second or any subsequent actions on the merits shall be final..." Applicant respectfully points out that the office action mailed on June 4, 2002, was not a subsequent action on the merits; but rather, a *first* action on the merits. The first office action, which was mailed on November 8, 2001, did not address the merits.